

TREASURE MOUNTAIN HOME

PARK CITY REVISITED

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In March, 1922, the Utah Ski Club met at Park City and spent a day of ski jumping on Treasure Hill where local skiers had built a jump. Alf Engen, for years the best known name in skiing, was with the group and selected a spot near the Creole Mine where the next year's meet would be held. The following January the group met again at J. J. Fitzgerald's store. Forty-two skiers attended with each bringing a lunch and a tin cup for coffee. The group jumped at the Creole Mine jump and toured King Con Ridge above. Motion pictures taken at their 1926 meet were shown on RKO Pathe news films in many theatres and attracted wide attention to Park City skiing. Probably none of the little group or any of the townspeople watching them realized the impact that skiing would have on the city's future.

In September, 1923, a new store was opened by the Skaggs chain, Dr. Bardlsey announced he would build a new two-story brick building, and John Rugar became manager of the American Theatre. It wasn't long until Rugar headed a group that raised \$50,000 to build the fine new Egyptian Theatre on the site where the old Dewey Theatre had been. It was built of brick, seated 450 people, and opened on Christmas Day, 1926. The Daisy Stage was housed in a new brick building also, just across the street from the New Park Hotel.

"Old Grover," the Chinese, died in Park City in March, 1926. For over 30 years he had been a friendly and familiar figure. Few Park City residents knew his real name was Quom Nom Low or that he signed his name Quom Nom Low de Grover. He had a wife living in China, who had never been in America, and a son known as Joe Grover. For the next 30 years Joe Grover would be just as well liked, and familiar a figure as "Old Grover" had been.

Another death in March, 1926, caused considerably more excitement than that of "Old Grover."

On March 12, while waiting to start shift at the Judge Tunnel, a miner named Herbert Crouse became involved in an argument with a Mexican miner named Pantoj. A few names were called; blows were exchanged, and then to the horror of the watching miners Pantoj suddenly pulled a knife and stabbed Crouse three times in the chest. Crouse fell dead in front of his friends and only the arrival of Sheriff Clark prevented a lynching. Miners at the Judge Mine refused to enter the mine unless all the Mexicans employed there were fired immediately.

Mine superintendent George Kruger refused the miner's ultimatum and the men walked off the job and returned to town

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making mob action appear imminent. City officials closed all public places to prevent trouble and county officers and deputies from the American Legion patrolled the streets to maintain order. The following Sunday the miner's union called for a strike against the Judge Mine with the vote being carried 190 to 2. Company officials led by manager Paul Hunt met with the miners and agreed to most of their terms, including getting rid of the trouble makers, and the men agreed to return to work. It was a near brush with mob violence for the miners and the city.

In 1925 a new high school was proposed and a bond to raise the money was approved by the citizens late that year. Construction began in 1926 and the building was completed in February, 1928, with that year's class being the first to graduate in the new school. It was quite different from the class which attended high school in the attic of the old Lincoln School in 1898 when there were only 16 boys and 16 girls attending. Metal prices were going up again and things were looking good at the mines and for the town. The Labor Day celebration in 1926 was held near the mouth of the Spiro Tunnel with the Silver King and Park Utah companies footing the bill, which included free drinks and refreshments as well as \$1,600 in prizes.

In 1927 Park City lost two old time stores and gained two new ones. On March 18 the huge Blyth-Fargo store burned to the ground. The "Big Store," as it was known, might have been saved but because of the sub-zero weather many people had been letting their water faucets run to keep them from freezing and the reservoir was nearly empty. Angered firemen were forced to stand by and watch the fine store with all of its contents burn to the ground. The following month the old Montgomery store, built in 1873, and the first store in Park City, was torn down. It had been made into a blacksmith shop in later years and along with Kimball's barn was the only building on lower Main Street to escape the great fire of '98. In April, 1927, the first advertisements for the new Safeway store appeared in the Record and the same month Zack Oblad opened his popular Quality Shop.

In 1927 two of Park City's most popular doctors started their practice. Dr. H.I. Goodwyn opened his office in July, and Dr. T.E. Clark hung out his shingle in September. Both were long-time favorites in Park City. In October, 1927, one of the greatest and best-loved of Park City's pioneer mining men died. John J. Daly, who did as much as anyone to make the Park City district famous, died at his home in Los Angeles, Calif. Although he had